DRAMACON

From the creator of CosmoGIRL!'s "Adventures of CG!"

Created by
Svetlana Chmakova

2

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Volume 2

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TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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A TOKYOPOP® Manga

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ISBN: 1-59816-130-X

First TOKYOPOP printing: October 2006
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in the USA

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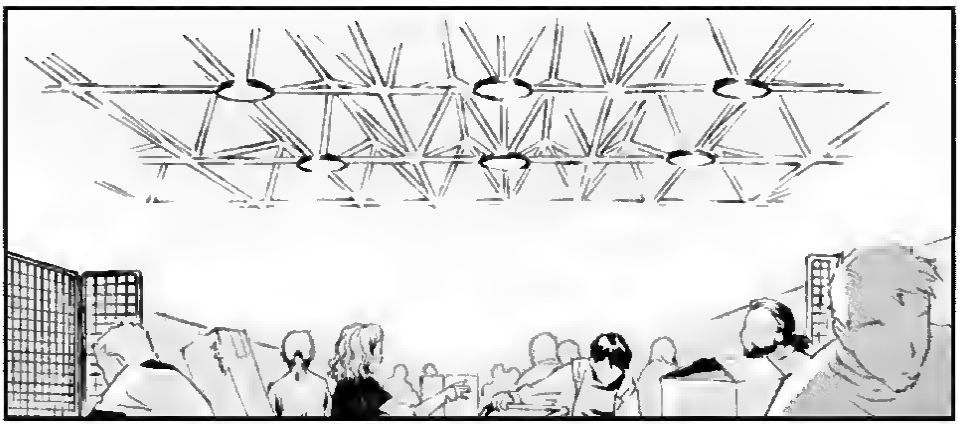
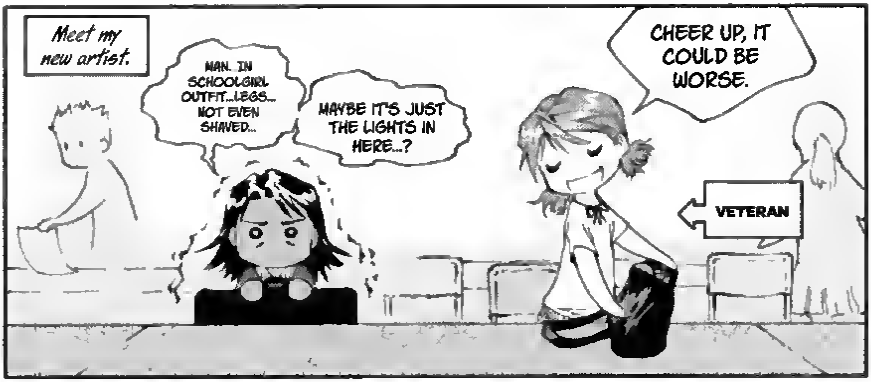


CHAPTER 1
I never called the number.
...Well, I did...
...but a girl picked up on the other end.
SLAM
HELLO?
.....
I'M SURE IT WAS... HIS ROOMMATE OR SOMETHING! IT'S ALWAYS A ROOMMATE OR SOMETHING!
OR HE HAD A SEX CHANGE.
IN WHICH CASE WE'RE SUPPORTIVE, BUT STILL STRAIGHT AS A RULER AND SUDDENLY NOT INTERESTED.

I never got the nerve again to call back. I thought about it rationally...
...and decided to move on.
Concentrate on more important things, like schoolwork...
...graduating...
HISTORY
PHYSICS
CHEMISTRY
CALCULUS
And working on my comic, of course.
Warp City 2
Speaking of which!


Meet my new artist.
MAN. IN SCHOOLGIRL OUTFIT...LEGS... NOT EVEN SHAVED...
MAYBE IT'S JUST THE LIGHTS IN HERE...?
CHEER UP, IT COULD BE WORSE.
VETERAN

IT WAS A MAN!!
IN A SCHOOLGIRL OUTFIT 3 SIZES TOO SMALL!!
HOW CAN IT BE WORSE?!
HE COULD HAVE DROPPED HIS HEART-SHAPED WAND AND BENT OVER TO PICK IT UP.

UNNECESSARY MENTAL IMAGE
CENSORED FOR WAY MORE ANATOMY THAN THE GENTLE READERS ARE PREPARED TO SEE.
.....
I'M LEAVING.
WAIT!

GIVE IT A CHANCE, THERE IS ACTUALLY A LOT OF COOL STUFF HERE!
I AM WARY OF YOUR DEFINITION OF 'COOL.' YOU THINK TUSTIN JIMBERLAKE IS 'COOL.'
OH, PLEASE, JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE BAD TASTE AND WOULDN'T KNOW A GOOD BOY-BAND FROM A TUBA...
CHRISS A 'GOOD BOY-BAND' IS AN OXYMORON. ALSO AN AFFRONT TO ALL THAT IS GOOD IN THIS WORLD.
AND NARYLIN NANSON ISN'T?
HIS WORK IS AN IMPORTANT COMMENTARY ON HYPOCRISY OF OUR SOCIETY.
HE COULDN'T LEARN TO SING FOR THAT?
?
HE CAN SO SI--!
OH, WOOOOOW!!

THIS STUFF LOOKS AWESOME!!! WHO DREW THIS??!
NO WAY!!! DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL FOR THIS??!
UM...
WHAT PENS DO YOU USE?!! WHAT KIND OF PAPER?!
I, UH...
DO YOU USE MAGIC FAIRY DUST THAT YOU SPRINKLE ON THESE TO MAKE THEM THIS GOOD?!
YOU DO, DON'T YOU?! WHERE CAN I GET SOME?!
HELP...
.....
NEVER MIND HER--SHE GETS LIKE THAT WHEN HER ARTISTIC EGO IS THREATENED.

OH, SHE'S AN ARTIST, TOO? ARE YOU?
KINDA. BUT I SUCK, SO I HAVE NO EGO TO BRUISE, HA HA!
28.. PISHA MICRON.. PHOTOO-SHOOP.. MAGIC FAIRY DUST? UM, NO?
I'M CHRISTIE, BY THE WAY, AND THAT'S BETHANY.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NEIGHBORS?
YEP!
WE'RE THE FIREBIRD STUDIO. I'M HYU-JEONG--NICE TO MEET YOU!
THE LOUDMOUTH OVER THERE IS MONICA.
WHO'S A LOUDMOUTH!?
I'M KIDDING, I'M KIDDING!
SERIOUSLY THOUGH, THIS STUFF'S AMAZING.
YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO THE MANGAPOP PORTFOLIO REVIEW?
THEY'RE DOING REVIEWS HERE??
YEAH, IT WAS A VERY LAST MINUTE ADDITION--IT'S UP ON THE CON WEBSITE.
AND THEY'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE RIGHT NOW! WE'RE TOTALLY GOING.

OH MY GOD, THIS IS SO MUCH BETTER THAN JUST SENDING SOMETHING IN-- THIS WAY IT WON'T GET LOST IN THE SLUSH PILE!!
..ON SECOND THOUGHT, PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA.
..EH? WHY ON EARTH WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO GO?! THIS COULD BE YOUR BIG CHANCE TO GET NOTICED!!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SCARED-- YOU'D TOTALLY KICK ASS!!
IT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY.
WE'VE GOT TIME!!
YOU'VE GOT TIME?
...!
THEN WHY ISN'T THE TABLE SET UP YET?!

I'M BREAKING MY BACK LUGGING ALL THE SUITCASES, AND YOU'RE SOCIALIZING?!
JUST SAYING HI..!
WE STILL HAVE PRINTS TO CUT!! AND BOOKMARKS TO TRIM!! SOCIALIZE LATER!
. . . . . .
I'M RAJ, BY THE WAY. HI. ♥
HELLO
HI
THIS IS CHRISTIE AND BETHANY! LOOK AT THE ART, IT'S AWE--
TABLE. SET UP. SOMETIME BEFORE THE CON IS OVER, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
YOU'RE SO BOSSY.
. . .
I WITHHOLD COMMENT.
DO. ♥
HEE, THEY'RE SO CUTE.

ARE YOU SURE?
HEY, DOES THIS LOOK OKAY? MAYBE WE SHOULD MOVE THE POSTCARDS OVER...
...
LOOKS GREAT TO ME.
ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY HERE ALONE FOR A LITTLE BIT? I'LL GO FIND WHERE WE CAN GET THE PROGRAMS.
GO AHEAD. I'LL CALL YOUR CELL IF I NEED ANYTHING.
SEE YOU IN A BIT!

10 MINUTES LATER.
20 MINUTES LATER.
??? MINUTES LATER.

HUFF
HUFF
DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?
(neither do we Good luck!)
...?
THERE IS NOTHING THERE.
WHO THE HELL BUILT THIS PLACE?!
IT'S JUST DOWN THE HALL AND AROUND THE CORNER.
?
THANK YOU, SORRY TO BE A PAIN.

NO PROBLEM AT ALL. SEE YOU IN A BIT!
STAFF
LIDA!!
...UM, HELLO!
HELLO.
...
SH-SHE...

SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER ME.
W- WELL, IT'S BEEN MONTHS! SHE PROBABLY MEETS, LIKE, A BILLION PEOPLE A YEAR!
AND, AND, YOU DID GET A HAIRCUT!
BUT...WE HAD...
SANDWICHES... AND SHE...SHE HUGGED ME...
...
SHEF
?
OH HEY, NOW, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STALK HER, ARE YOU?
OF COURSE NOT. I'M JUST GOING DOWN THE HALL.
...AND AROUND THE CORNER.

...
COME NOW...
LEAVE THE WOMAN ALONE.
I NEED TO WASH MY HANDS.
PUSH
OKAY, SEE, IT'S NOT STALKING IF WE HAVE BUSINESS IN THERE.
HEE HEE, I LOVE LOOPHOLES
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...

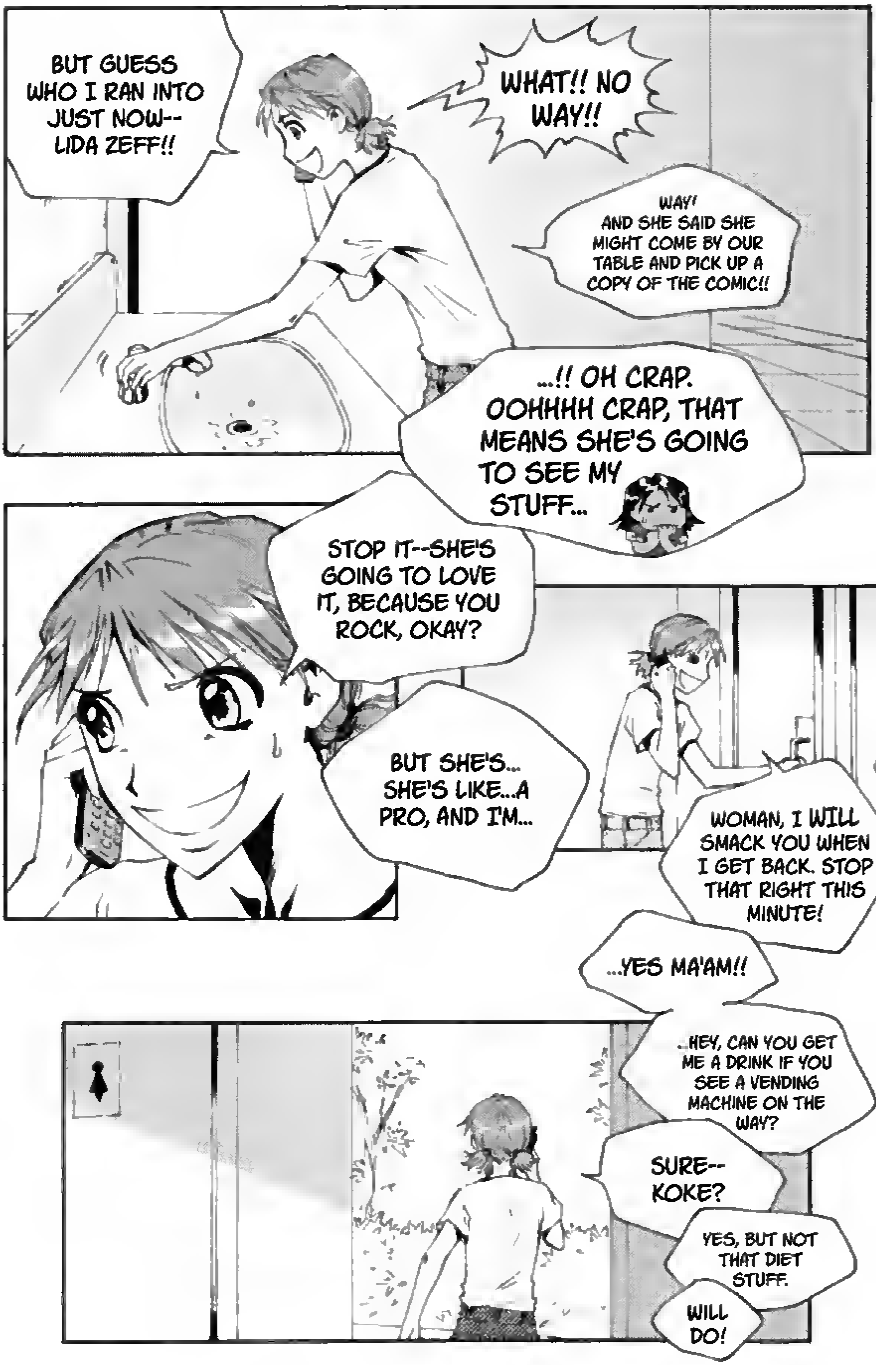
OH, HELLO AGAIN!
HI.
?!
...UM. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES.
FLFF
FLFF
JUST ALLERGIES.
...OH. OKAY.
GLANCE
...HAVE WE MET? YOU SEEM FAMILIAR.
YES, LAST YEAR!
I'M CHRISTIE--I WROTE *WARY CITY* AND YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SECRETARY AND WE HAD SANDWICHES...
RIGHT RIGHT RIGHT, YOU HAD THE ASSHOLE ARTIST!

HEH, YEAH.
WE, UH... I BROKE UP WITH HIM.
I HAVE A NEW ARTIST NOW! SHE IS SO AWESOME. WE'RE DOING A WEBCOMIC AND WE'VE GOT A NEW ISSUE OUT!
REALLY! THAT'S GREAT, I'LL HAVE TO CHECK IT OUT! YOU GUYS IN THE ARTIST ALLEY?
YEP!
I'LL SEE IF I CAN'T SWING BY WHEN I HAVE A MOMENT.
I'LL SAVE YOU A COPY!
THANKS. IT WAS NICE SEEING YOU AGAIN.
...
UM!
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
YOU DON'T LOOK... I MEAN...

AAAAH, NEVER MIND!!
I'M TOTALLY PRYING, I AM SORRY...
UM...
I HOPE YOUR ALLERGIES ARE BETTER.
DO YOU LIKE MAKING COMICS, CHRISTIE?
VERY MUCH!
...
YOU HANG ON TO THAT.

ON A LESS GLOOMY NOTE--ARE YOU COMING TO THE PANEL TOMORROW?
COME HAIL OR HIGH WATER!!
HA HA, SEE YOU THEN.
BYEE!
SHE DID REMEMBER ME, SHE DID, SHE DID, SHE DIIIIIIID..
WHERE ARE YOU-- JAPAN?! IT'S BEEN ALMOST AN HOUR!
SORRY! SORRY! I GOT LOST!


BUT GUESS WHO I RAN INTO JUST NOW-- LIDA ZEFF!!
WHAT!! NO WAY!!
WAY! AND SHE SAID SHE MIGHT COME BY OUR TABLE AND PICK UP A COPY OF THE COMIC!!
...!! OH CRAP. OOHHHH CRAP, THAT MEANS SHE'S GOING TO SEE MY STUFF...
STOP IT--SHE'S GOING TO LOVE IT, BECAUSE YOU ROCK, OKAY?
BUT SHE'S... SHE'S LIKE...A PRO, AND I'M...
WOMAN, I WILL SMACK YOU WHEN I GET BACK. STOP THAT RIGHT THIS MINUTE!
...YES MA'AM!!
..HEY, CAN YOU GET ME A DRINK IF YOU SEE A VENDING MACHINE ON THE WAY?
SURE-- KOKE?
YES, BUT NOT THAT DIET STUFF.
WILL DO!

BEEP
ALL RIGHT, LIDA CAME FROM OVER THERE...
THAT MEANS THE CONVENTION IS SOMEWHERE THAT WAY, TOO!
READY...
SET...
My second ever anime convention...was off to a very promising start.
GO!!
It's funny how no obstacle seems too big...
...until life starts happening.

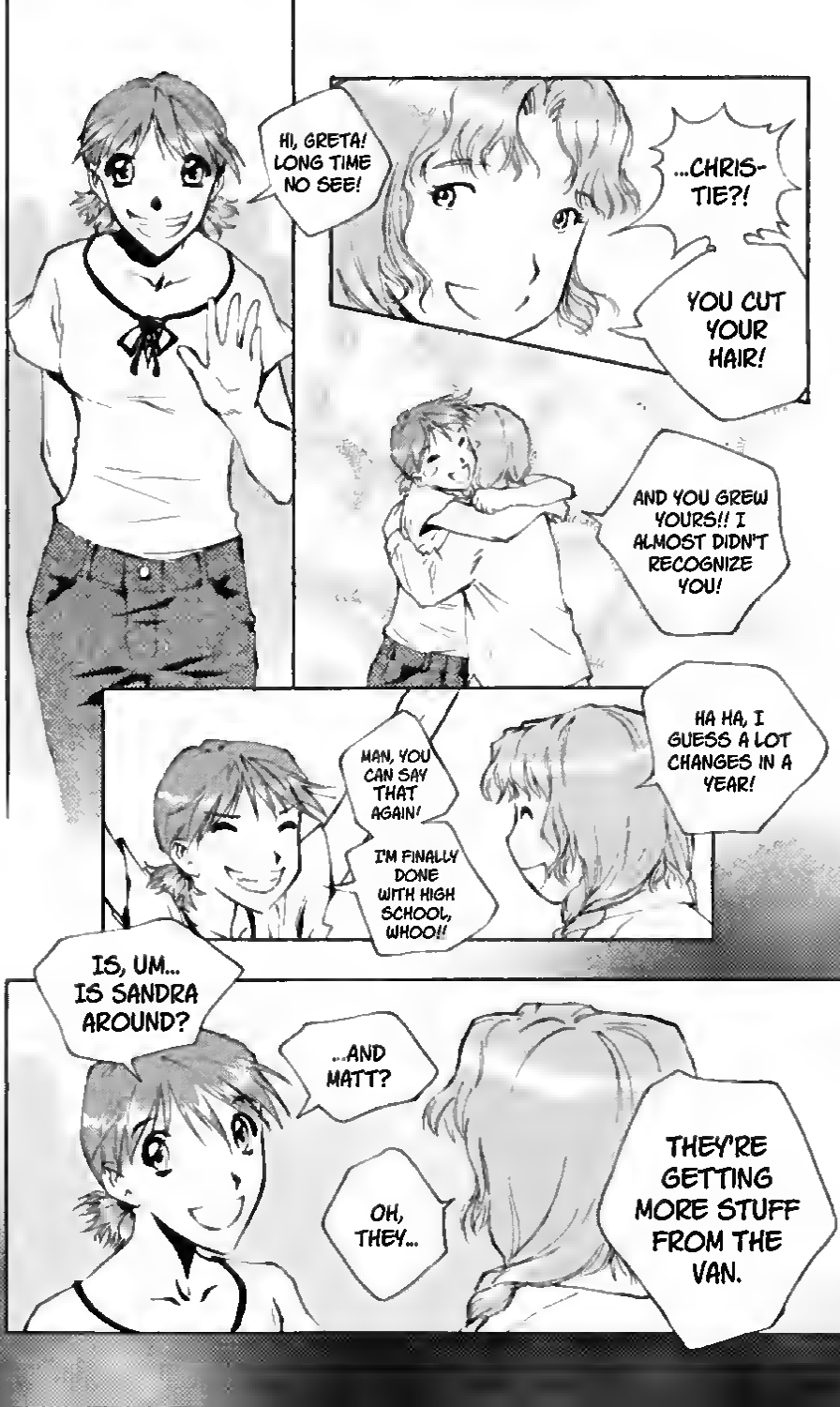
CHAPTER 2

GOT THE PROGRAMS!!
AWESOME--HEY, GUESS WHAT? LIDA'S RUNNING ART PANELS!
BOTH ARE CHARACTER DRAWING, THOUGH--LAST YEAR SHE ALSO DID A PANEL ON BACKGROUND DRAWING.
THAT'S FOR YOU ART PEOPLE I'M GOING TO THE ONE SHE'S DOING ON WRITING!
I'M CHRISTIE, BY THE WAY.
DARREN. YEAH, THAT ONE'S TOMORROW, RIGHT?
SHE'S ALSO ON A WEBCOMICS PANEL AND THE MANGAPOP INDUSTRY ONE.
OH WOW, SO MUCH LIDA IN ONE WEEKEND! I FEEL SPOILED.
THIS IS GOING TO BE THE BEST CON EVER.
HA HA, YOU GUYS HARDCORE FANS OR SOMETHING?
WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY HARDCORE...
I WOULD. SHE'S GOT ALMOST EVERY BOOK LIDA'S EVER HAD IN PRINT!

SHE'D BUY HER HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH HOMEWORK, IF SHE COULD! AND I AM NOT KIDDING--SEE, THERE WAS THIS SCAM POSTING ON THE WEB LAST MONTH, AND SHE...
OH, LIKE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ALL OVER IT IF IT WAS HER *ART* HOMEWORK!!!
TONE IT DOWN WITH THE ASS-KISSING, PLEASE? SHE'S NOT THAT GREAT.
. . . . . .
YES, SHE IS. SHE'S AWESOME!
CHRISS...
WHAT? DID YOU HEAR WHAT SHE...
SHE'S ENTITLED TO HER OPINION.
SHE SAID I WAS KISSING ASS! SHE WAS RUDE!
...
SO DON'T DIGNIFY IT WITH AN ANSWER-- IT'S NOT LIKE SHE WAS STARTING UP A CONVERSATION.

I'M RUDE?
AT LEAST I DON'T TALK ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE THEY'RE NOT THERE.
I DON'T THINK SHE LIKES THE TASTE OF HER OWN MEDICINE.
MMM, THE TWITCHING IS A DEAD GIVEAWAY, I AGREE.
NOD
NOD
GOD, YOU ARE SUCH LOSERS!
MEANWHILE, BACK ON MORE INTERESTING TOPICS!
CAN I SNEAK OFF FOR JUST A FEW MINUTES MORE AND THEN BE RIGHT BACK, PLEEZE PLEEZE PLEEEEEZE?
HA HA, GO! DON'T END UP IN CAIRO.
AND IF YOU DO, BRING BACK SOUVENIRS!!
YEAH YEAH, HAR HAR.
THIS IS GOING TO BE A LOOONG WEEKEND...

Délusion
BOO!


HI, GRETA! LONG TIME NO SEE!
...CHRIS-TIE?!
YOU CUT YOUR HAIR!
AND YOU GREW YOURS!! I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU!
HA HA, I GUESS A LOT CHANGES IN A YEAR!
MAN, YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!
I'M FINALLY DONE WITH HIGH SCHOOL, WHOO!!
IS, UM... IS SANDRA AROUND?
...AND MATT?
OH, THEY...
THEY'RE GETTING MORE STUFF FROM THE VAN.

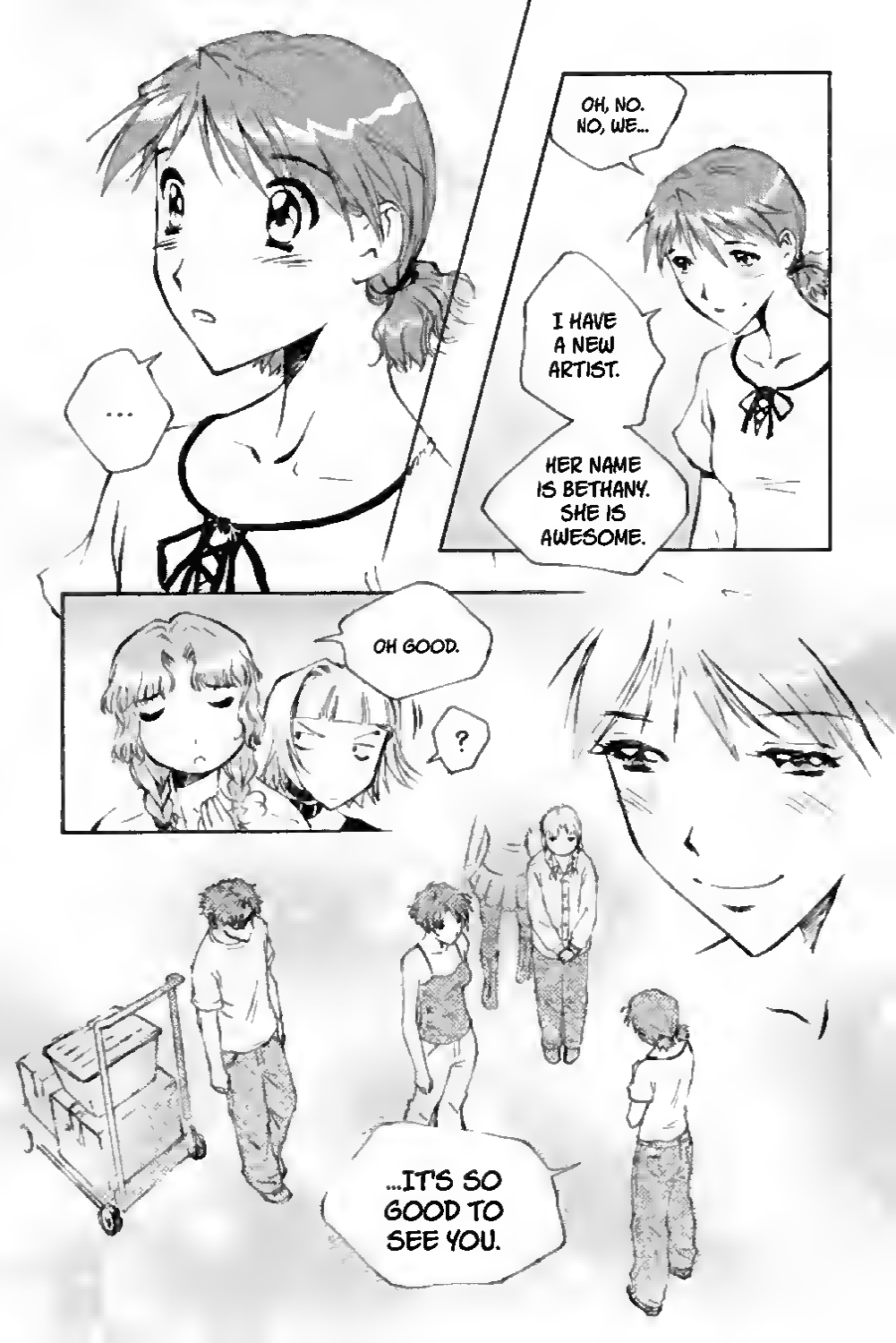
WHO'S ASKING?
U-UH... I'M CHRISTIE. HI.
I'M EMILY, MATT'S GIRLFRIEND.
NICE TO MEET...
GIRLFRIEND.

?
HELLO?
.....
...MEET?
...S-SORRY, I DIDN'T CATCH...
I DIDN'T CATCH THAT.
...
I ASKED HOW YOU GUYS MET.
UM.
WE...
WE MET AT THIS CON, LAST YEAR.

HUH. REALLY? HE NEVER ONCE MENTIONED YOU.
...
...I GUESS I'M NOT VERY MEMORABLE?
WHO DOES SHE REMIND ME OF?
THEY SHOULD BE BACK ANY MINUTE, ACTUALLY. DO YOU WANT TO STICK AROUND AND SAY HI?
NAH, THAT'S OKAY. I SHOULD BE GETTING BACK, MY...
WELL, TOO LATE. HERE THEY COME.
HEY, MATT! SOMEONE'S HERE TO SEE YOU!

?
...OH. MY. GOD. CHRISTIE?!
YOU CUT YOUR HAIR!! IT'S SO CUTE!! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?!
HA HA, I'VE BEEN GOOD, I'VE BEEN GOOD!! WHAT ABOUT YOU?
OH, THE USUAL, YOU KNOW— THE STORE KEEPS ME BUSY, GRETA KEEPS ME OUT OF TROUBLE, AND MATT'S TRYING TO DRIVE ME INTO AN EARLY GRAVE.
...
...LUCKILY, I WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE TO DIE YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL, FOR HE NOW HAS A GIRLFRIEND TO TORMENT, TOO.
HAVE YOU MET EMILY?
YEAH.

HOW VERY EXCELLENT!
SO, TELL, TELL! ARE YOU COSPLAYING THIS YEAR?
NOT REALLY, NO...
...BECAUSE I HAVE THE PERFECT OUTFIT FOR YOU, IF YOU WANT TO TR--
I REALLY SHOULD BE GETTING BACK.
...I M-MEAN, YOU GUYS HAVE A LOT TO SET UP, RIGHT?!
AND MY ARTIST'S ALL ALONE BACK AT THE TABLE, SO...
...SAME...ARTIST?


...
OH, NO. NO, WE...
I HAVE A NEW ARTIST.
HER NAME IS BETHANY. SHE IS AWESOME.
OH GOOD.
?
...IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.

HEY, MAKE SURE TO COME BY AGAIN! YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE!
OF COURSE! PLEASE SAVE ONE OF THOSE KITTY HATS FOR ME!
.....
...OKAY, THERE WAS, LIKE, A NOVEL BETWEEN THE LINES HERE JUST NOW. WHAT'S GOING ON?
MATT?
...DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
DON'T TELL ME TO NOT WORRY ABOUT IT! YOU GUYS GOT ALL WEIRD-- WHAT...
NOT OURS TO TELL, HON. SO SHHH.
...

HEY HEY! SORRY I TOOK SO LONG.
NO WORRIES. SOOOO...DID YOU FIND HIM?
UH-OH, WHAT'S WRONG?
GIRLFRIEND.
I-I'M OKAY, IT WAS JUST... SUDDEN.
I KNOW IT'S STUPID, BUT SOMEHOW I DIDN'T EXPECT...
...
YEAH. YEAH, I DID.